

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 05472 251908Z

70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-19 MC-02 DODE-00 EB-11

NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 AEC-11 CIAE-00 COME-00 AID-20

CEA-02 FRB-02 INR-10 CIEP-02 SPC-03 STR-08 LAB-06

SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-10 SS-15 DRC-01 /175 W

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R 251745Z SEP 73

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5778

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 5472

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EGEN, EINO, ITEL, EEC

SUBJ: EC COMMISSION DRAFT MEMORANDUM ON

COMPUTER POLICY

REFS: A. EC BRUSSELS 5319; B. STATE 146948; C. EC

BRUSSELS A-282

1. ON SEPTEMBER 20 WE REVIEWED THE U.S. POSITION
REGARDING THE EC COMMISSION'S DRAFT MEMORANDUM ON
COMPUTER POLICY (REFTEL B) WITH QUEQUIN, THE WORKING-
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PAGE 02 EC BRU 05472 251908Z

LEVEL OFFICIAL DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH THIS SUBJECT.

OUR TALK WITH QUEQUIN WAS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE MISSION'S RECENT DISCUSSION WITH GRIERSON, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INDUSTRIAL AFFAIRS (REFTEL A).

2. QUEQUIN TOOK CAREFUL NOTE OF THE POINTS IN OUR PRESENTATION AND INDICATED THAT HE WOULD INFORM HIS COLLEAGUES CONCERNED WITH COMPUTER POLICY. QUEQUIN ALSO MADE A NUMBER OF FAMILIAR POINTS IN DEFENSE OF THE COMMISSION'S THINKING ON COMPUTERS. HE EMPHASIZED SUCH ARGUMENTS AS: (A) THE JAPANESE AND VARIOUS INDIVIDUAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ALREADY SUBSIDIZE AND PROTECT COMPUTER INDUSTRIES ON A NATIONAL BASIS; (B) THE COMPUTER INDUSTRY IS OF SINGULAR IMPORTANCE TO MANY OTHER SECTORS; AND (C) NATIONAL EUROPEAN PROGRAMS ARE INEFFECTIVE AND THE ONLY HOPE FOR THE COMMUNITY IS TO PROMOTE AND PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AT THE "EUROPEAN" LEVEL.

3. WE REBUTTED QUEQUIN'S ARGUMENTS AND LEFT HIM IN NO DOUBT ABOUT THE SERIOUS CONCERN WITH WHICH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT VIEWS THIS MATTER. HE DID MAKE SEVERAL COMMENTS IN AN EFFORT TO REASSURE US ABOUT THE LONG-TERM: E.G., U.S. COMPANIES WOULD NOT BE EXCLUDED FROM SOME PARTICIPATION IN THE EUROPEAN GROUP OR GROUPS; AND THE COMMUNITY WOULD PLAN TO PHASE OUT SPECIAL AIDS TO THE EUROPEAN INDUSTRY ONCE IT GOT ON ITS FEET.

4. COMMISSIONER SPINELLI TOLD THE EC COUNCIL ON SEPTEMBER 20 THAT A FORMAL PROPOSAL ON AN EC COMPUTER POLICY WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

5. FOR USEC COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, SEE REFTEL A. GREENWALD

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